SAFETY GRAM

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION

24 October 2013: A 9mm round detonated after being dropped on the

Background

A 10th Mountain unit was conducting a M9 qualification range when the incident occurred. The Soldiers were issued their allotted number of rounds in the foam tray, then carried them onto the firing line at the all weather qualification range (indoor range). One of the Soldiers dropped his tray while inside the air lock room and one of the rounds detonated, sending brass shrapnel and the projectile into the walls of the room. No Soldiers were injured.

Analysis

The 9mm round had a crescent shaped scar across the primer (as seen in the picture above). The scar appears to be similar to those made on the casing from the crimping process done at the factory. It is suspected that the round was not correctly positioned in the shell holder when the crimping process was completed. Creating a condition where a light strike on the primer was enough to detonate the round. After examining the remaining ammunition the rounds that showed similar markings on the primer were separated out and turned back in for disposal.

Recommendations

- The Ammo Detail Personnel Inspect all Ammo for defects in the primer area prior to issue for qualification
- If defects are found separate and do not issue
- Turn in affected ammo to the Ammunition supply point for disposal
- Fill out an Ammunition Malfunction Report *DA Form 4379 I/A/W AR 75-1*

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